



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 2003

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

### KENTUCKY, Northeast

**KYZ101>103-105**

**Greenup - Carter - Boyd - Lawrence**

<b>15</b>	<b>2300EST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.1M</b>	<b>Flood</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>1500EST</b>				

Three day rain totals, beginning on the 14th, totaled 4 to 6 inches. Louisa had 5.5 inches of rain, while Ashland measured 4.9 inches. Other cooperative measurements included 4.7 inches at Charley, 4.5 inches at Grayson Lake, and 4.1 inches at the Greenup Lock and Dam.

Small stream and river flooding resulted. Some roads were covered by 15 feet of water. The Little Fork flooded areas around Hitchens and Willard in Carter County. Four mobile homes and 1 single family home were destroyed in Greenup County. Three homes were affected in Lawrence County. The East Fork of the Little Sandy overflowed in Boyd County. The crest on the Little Sandy River at Grayson was 24.7 feet around 0900E on the 17th. Flood stage is 21 feet.

**KYZ101>103-105**

**Greenup - Carter - Boyd - Lawrence**

<b>16</b>	<b>0400EST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.4M</b>	<b>Ice Storm</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>1200EST</b>				

Ice from freezing rain accumulated 1 to 2 inches on power lines and trees. Fallen trees and branches blocked roads and knocked out electricity and phone service. The worst conditions were in western portions of Carter and Greenup Counties compared to points further east, in Boyd and northern Lawrence Counties. Olive Hill reported an inch of ice on exposed surfaces, with no electricity for 8 days. The power outages forced the state parks at Carter Caves and Greenbo to temporarily close. A South Shore resident of Greenup County reported about 2 inches of solid ice. He said, "It looks like a war zone, all of our trees are just mangled".

Governor Patton requested a disaster declaration from President Bush, covering both the severe icing and the flooding across portions of the Commonwealth. The disaster was approved, including the 4 northeast Kentucky counties. See FEMA disaster number 1454 for county assistance.

**Lawrence County**

**5 W Louisa**

<b>22</b>	<b>1730EST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1K</b>	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G50)</b>
	Trees fell across Route 32.				

### OHIO, Southeast

**OHZ066>067-075>076-084 Perry - Morgan - Athens - Washington - Vinton**

<b>14</b>	<b>2000EST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Heavy Snow</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>1300EST</b>			

Snow accumulated 8 to 18 inches in several waves of precipitation. One wave was Friday night into early Saturday. A lull occurred during the day on Saturday, the 15th. Another shot of snow moved back north during Saturday night into Sunday. Some sleet and freezing rain mixed with the snow on Sunday, the 16th. The last wave of snow was on Monday the 17th. McConnelsville's snow depth went from 2 inches, prior to the storm, to 19 inches. The snow depth at Newport went from a trace to 18 inches. The snow depth at Marietta and Nelsonville's reached 16 inches, after starting with only a trace of old snow. New Lexington saw its snow depth go from an inch to 15 inches. Athens snow depth went from a trace to 12 inches. Finally at McArthur, the snow depth went from zero to 8 inches.

**OHZ083-085>087**

**Jackson - Meigs - Gallia - Lawrence**

<b>16</b>	<b>0200EST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6.3M</b>	<b>Ice Storm</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>1200EST</b>				

A severe ice storm occurred, when 1 to 2 inches of ice from freezing rain accumulated on trees and power lines. The precipitation



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 2003

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
----------	------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

### OHIO, Southeast

initially started as snow then changed to rain then freezing rain. The freezing rain was mixed with sleet at times. The storm finally ended as a period of snow on Monday, the 17th.

Roads remained blocked by fallen branches and trees for several days. A Meigs County deputy sheriff said on the 17th, "We've got trees coming down about every 5 minutes". The city of Pomeroy was without electricity for 5 days. No electricity lead to water shortages. Refrigerated frozen foods spoiled.

Governor Taft declared a state of emergency in Lawrence, Gallia, and Meigs Counties for the severe icing. Jackson and Vinton Counties in southeast Ohio were later added for a request of federal assistance. President Bush declared a major disaster that included Jackson, Lawrence, Vinton, Meigs, and Gallia Counties. See FEMA disaster number 1453.

### VIRGINIA, Northwest

VAZ003>004

#### **Dickenson - Buchanan**

15	1845EST	0	0	1.1M	Flood
16	1500EST				

Two day rain totals of 3 to 4.5 inches accumulated from the 14th into the 16th. Grundy had 4.3 inches, Hurley had 3.7 inches, and Clintwood measured 3.3 inches. Small streams flooded or washed out roads late on the 15th into the 16th. Mud slides occurred on steep slopes. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management reported 35 homes and 20 businesses had major damage in Buchanan County. The town manager of Grundy said water had seeped under the floors of the police department and a lot of mud was in the basement below the town offices. Hurley High School also reported some damage. A federal disaster was declared, that included these 2 Virginia Counties. See FEMA disaster declaration number 1458.

VAZ003>004

#### **Dickenson - Buchanan**

22	1000EST	0	0	20K	Flood
	1300EST				

Morning rains of 1 to 2 inches over saturated ground caused small streams to flood and close roads. A lull occurred in the rain, as milder air took control during the afternoon. More showers and even some thunderstorms formed during the evening, but no renewed flooding was reported during the night.

### WEST VIRGINIA, West

WVZ009>011-019>020-  
030>032-040-046>047

#### **Wood - Pleasants - Tyler - Ritchie - Doddridge - Lewis - Harrison - Taylor - Barbour - Pocahontas - Randolph**

14	1900EST	0	0	750K	Heavy Snow
17	1700EST				

A 1 to 2 foot snow fall occurred after several waves or intervals of snow. Even heavier snow fell across portions of the eastern panhandle of the state. It was the deepest snow storm since January 1996 for the north central lowlands. The first interval of snow was from Friday night the 14th, into early Saturday, the 15th. A lull took place during the day on the 15th, only to be followed by more snow Saturday night into Sunday. Some freezing rain and sleet mixed with the snow late Sunday and Sunday evening. The last band of significant snow passed late Monday afternoon, the 17th.

The snow depth at Clarksburg went from 2 inches prior to the storm, to 21 inches at the end. Middlebourne went from an inch to 18 inches on the ground. Bartow of Pocahontas County saw their snow depth increase from 8 inches to 24 inches. The snow depth at Snowshoe went from 18 inches to 30 inches. Grafton's snow depth went from 3 inches to 18 inches. Elkins measured 16 inches on the ground, after starting with a 5 inch snow cover. The snow depth at Belington of Barbour County went from 4 to 5 inches before the storm, to 16 inches. West Union had no old snow, and ended up with 15 inches on the ground. After starting the storm with bare ground, both Parkersburg and Cairo measured 14 inches of snow on the ground. A spotter from Saint Marys reported their total snow depth as 17 inches.

At least 10 porch roofs or awnings collapsed in Harrison County from the weight of the snow. Nutter Fort Fire Department checked out mobile homes that were leaking inside. The volunteers then removed the snow from their roofs.

As a result of this storm, plus other lighter events, the preliminary monthly snowfall total at Clarksburg was 37.9 inches. This was their snowiest February on record. It was also their 2nd snowiest month, only exceeded by November of 1950. The monthly



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 2003

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
----------	------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------

### WEST VIRGINIA, West

snowfall total at Elkins was 29.5 inches, their 2nd snowiest February since 1899. The 19.4 inches of snow at Parkersburg during the month of February was their 3rd snowiest February.

WVZ005>006-013>015-  
024>026-033>035

Wayne - Cabell - Lincoln - Putnam - Kanawha - Mingo - Logan - Boone - McDowell - Wyoming - Raleigh

15	1900EST	2	0	8.6M	Flood
17	1200EST				

Rains from Friday afternoon, the 14th, into Sunday the 16th were on the order of 3.5 to 4.9 inches, with the maximum over Wayne and Lincoln Counties. Small streams flooded onto roads Saturday evening, the 15th, into early Sunday, the 16th. Major flooding occurred along the Twelvepole Creek in Wayne County including Dunlow, Wayne, and Lavalette. Evacuations occurred along Falls Creek near West Hamlin.

The larger rivers, including the Guyandotte, the Mud, the Coal, the Tug Fork, and the lower Elk flooded. Major flooding occurred along the lower portion of the Guyandotte Basin, including the Mud River in Lincoln and Cabell Counties. Communities such as Branchland, West Hamlin, Hamlin and Milton were flooded. The crest at Branchland was 36.7 feet on the Guyandotte River around 0400E on the 17th. Flood stage is 30 feet. Water levels have not been higher at Branchland since a 38 foot crest back in June of 1979. The Tug Fork crested at Kermit around 0400E on the 17th at 46.3 feet. Flood stage is 38 feet. The last time the Tug Fork was higher at Kermit was May of 1984, when 49 feet was reached. The Coal and lower Elk River saw only minor flooding.

Preliminary damage assessments indicated on the order of 20 to 30 single family homes and 7 businesses with major damage. About 15 mobile homes were destroyed. On the order of 30 vehicles were flooded in Lincoln County. In Hamlin, one husband and wife were all set to move to a new home. Their possessions were packed and stacked in the yard awaiting a moving van. Then the flood hit. The wife said, "It went down the river, I guess". One business owner in Hamlin commented about the high water, "If you live by it, you got to live with it".

A 45 year old woman drowned in her vehicle, after driving into high water from the Mud River in Lincoln County near the Cabell County line. Her vehicle was swept into the river, overturned and sank. That incident took place around 1000E on the 16th. A 19 year old man drowned in the Coal River near Tornado, during the late night hours, early on Monday the 17th.

M19OU, F45VE

WVZ005>006-014>015-  
026>027-033>036

Wayne - Cabell - Putnam - Kanawha - Boone - Clay - McDowell - Wyoming - Raleigh - Fayette

16	0400EST	0	0	1.9M	Winter Storm
17	1400EST				

Heavy rains of the 14th into the 15th changed to sleet and freezing rain, then ended as snow. Accumulations of freezing rain were at least a quarter of an inch, but sleet and snow resulted in the final accumulation of 1 to 4 inches. Sleet accumulated about 3 inches in the city of Charleston during Sunday afternoon, the 16th. A canopy, over the gasoline pumps at a Charleston convenience store, collapsed during Sunday night. The WVAH TV tower on Coal Mountain in western Kanawha County came crashing down on the 19th, still caked in ice. The building housing the transmitter was also destroyed by the collapse. The station estimated 1.5 million dollars in damage. A communication town for Wayne County on German Ridge near Lavalette also fell as a result of the ice.

WVZ007>008-016>018-  
028>029-037>039

Mason - Jackson - Roane - Wirt - Calhoun - Braxton - Gilmer - Nicholas - Webster - Upshur

16	0415EST	0	0	9.5M	Ice Storm
17	1400EST				

A severe ice storm occurred across a narrow east to west band of counties. The severe ice continued west, into southeast Ohio and



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 2003

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed Injured	Estimated Damage Property Crops	Character of Storm
----------	------	----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	--	---------------------------------------	--------------------

### WEST VIRGINIA, West

northeast Kentucky. Ice from freezing rain accumulated 1 to 3 inches on power lines and trees. The precipitation then ended as snow on the 17th. The added weight from the ice, broke limbs and snapped the tops off thousands of trees. Other trees were uprooted or left leaning at precarious angles. The fallen trees blocked many roads. Power outages were widespread, and lasted for more than 3 days. Refrigerated frozen foods thawed and spoiled. Phone and water services were also interrupted. The Red Cross opened shelters. One gas station in Ravenswood wired up a borrowed generator and pumped over 600 gallons of kerosene in less than 24 hours. Nearly 25,000 gallons of bottled water were distributed.

A state forester said, "the severity of damage varied a lot, with some hillsides escaping major damage, while neighboring slopes had nearly all the tree tops snapped off by the ice". A Jackson County commissioner said, " This is really the worst I've ever seen here".

The diverse and complex storm, that brought this severe ice, also caused the flooding rains in the southwestern part of the state, the heavy snow in the north, and even a prolong period of sleet to some counties. A state of emergency was declared by Governor Wise on the 16th. Wise requested federal monetary assistance due to the flooding, severe ice, and snow removal. A major disaster declaration was granted by President Bush. See FEMA disaster number 1455 for details on county assistance.

**Jackson - Wood - Pleasants - Tyler - Lincoln - Kanawha - Roane - Wirt - Calhoun - Ritchie - Doddridge - Mingo - Logan - Boone - Clay - Braxton - Gilmer - Lewis - Harrison - McDowell - Wyoming - Raleigh - Fayette - Upshur - Pocahontas**

WVZ008>011-013-  
015>020-024>031-033-  
033>034-034>035-  
035>036-039-046

22	1200EST	0	0	325K	Flood
23	2000EST				

Morning rains deposited a half inch to over an inch, before ending by midday. Some minor flooding occurred in southern West Virginia, plus combined with snow melt in Pocahontas County. Warmer air surged into the state during the afternoon. A strong low pressure storm system lifted northeast through the upper Ohio River Valley. A round of showers and thunderstorms formed ahead of its cold front during this evening. These showers slowed their eastward movement and redeveloped over central West Virginia during the 2000 to 2300E time frame. This round of showers deposited another half inch to an inch of rain.

Widespread small stream flooding occurred. River flooding followed on the 23rd as temperatures dropped into the 20s and lower 30s, and light snow fell. The Little Kanawha River crested at 28.3 feet at Glenville around 1200E on the 23rd. Flood stage is 23 feet. Water got into some basements in Glenville. Also in Gilmer County, roads were flooded around Sand Fork. Local runoff helped the Kanawha River rise rapidly around Charleston. A crest of 28.5 feet occurred near dawn on the 23rd. This was the highest level on the Kanawha River at Charleston since the 29.6 feet back in February of 1972. Backwater of Davis Creek flooded portions of the South Charleston Recreation Center. The lower reaches of Kanawha Two Mile surrounded several homes in Charleston. Around 17 houses were flooded in the vicinity of Iowa Street. Twenty houses around 22nd Street in Kanawha City section of Charleston had flooded basements. The lower Coal River in Kanawha County crested at 25.6 feet, just slightly higher than the crest a week earlier. The total monthly precipitation at Charleston was 7.4 inches. It was second wettest February on record at Charleston.

Snow melt and the rain brought the West Fork River over flood stage at Clarksburg. A crest of 17.5 feet occurred at the gauge near Clarksburg on the 23rd. Yet, only minor road flooding and road closures were seen. Finally, the Ohio River crested slightly over flood stage at Letart and New Haven through Point Pleasant. Only minor backwater flooding occurred along this stretch of the Ohio River.

Wayne County  
Prichard to  
Wayne

22	1740EST	0	0	Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
----	---------	---	---	-------------------------

Trees were blown down along Routes 19 and 20.



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 2003

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

### WEST VIRGINIA, West

Wayne County Crum	22	1750EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
Wayne County Wayne	22	1755EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
Cabell County Yates Crossing	22	1810EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Power lines and large branches were blown down.									
Putnam County Hurricane	22	1830EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
A couple large trees were blown down.									
Lincoln County Spurlockville	22	1840EST			0	0			Hail(0.75)
Kanawha County Charleston	22	1845EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Trees were knocked down along Greenbrier Street.									
Boone County Morrisvale	22	1850EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Several trees were knocked down.									
Mingo County Williamson	22	1920EST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (G50)
Telephone lines and large branches were blown down.									